

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARBATOV ON ARMS RACE SPIRALS, U.S. POLICY PROSPECTS

1. AT POL COUNSELORS' MEETING JULY 29, CANADIAN REP REPORTED ON ARBATOV COMMENTS TO MEA ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY GOLDSCHLAG CONCERNING ARMS RACE AND U.S. POLICY PROSPECTS DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WEEK OF JULY 19.

2. WHEN GOLDSCHLAG HAD ARGUED THAT THE MAIN AIM IN ARMS CONTROL SHOULD BE TO REDUCE EXISTING ARSENALS RATHER THAN BAN NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS, ARBATOV HAD RESPONDED WITH WHAT HE CALLED "THE SOVIET VIEWPOINT." BECAUSE THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE ADVANCED THAN THE USSR, THE SOVIETS HAVE ALWAYS HAD TO RUN TO CATCH UP. WHEN THEY DO, THE U.S. THEN MOVES AHEAD IN OTHER FIELDS, AND THE SOVIETS MUST START RUNNING AGAIN. THUS THEY WANT TO BAN WEAPONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED. ONCE WEAPONS SYSTEMS EXIST IT BECOMES TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM. THE LATEST EXAMPLE IS THE CRUISE MISSILE, WHICH LOOKS CHEAP, AND WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO
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THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FOR THAT REASON.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE U.S., ARBATOV TOLD GOLDSCHLAG HE FORESAW NO MAJOR CHANGE IN POLICY WHICHEVER PARTY WINS IN NOVEMBER, BUT ALSO BELIEVED SOME HARDENING OF "THE GENERAL LINE" WOULD REMAIN AS A RESULT OF THE NEGATIVE RHETORIC THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS ENGENDERED.

4. COMMENT. WHILE THIS STANDARD ARBATOV FARE, REFERENCE TO DANGER OF THIRD WORLD USE OF CRUISE MISSILES IS ONE WE CANNOT RECALL HEARING BEFORE.
MATLOCK

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